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PATENT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of:

FEB 24 1999

LAFFEND ET AL.

CASE NO.: CR-9715-B

APPLICATION NO.: 08/849,404

GROUP ART UNIT: 1652

FILED: 22 MAY 1997

EXAMINER: BUGIASKY, G.

FOR: BIOCONVERSION OF A FERMENTABLE  
CARBON SOURCE TO 1,3-PROPANEDIOL  
BY A SINGLE MICROORGANISM

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Please consider the following amendments and remarks before the first action on this continuing application filed under 35 USC 1.53(d). This document is filed with regard to the Final Office Action, Paper 10, mailed 24 June 1998 and the Advisory Action, Paper 15, mailed 23 November 1998 in an effort to place the application in condition for allowance. Please amend the above-referenced application as follows:

In the Claims:

2 (Amended Twice) A bioconversion process to produce 1,3-propanediol comprising contacting, under suitable conditions, glycerol or dihydroxyacetone with a single recombinant microorganism having at least one exogenous gene expressing a glycerol dehydratase enzyme, the microorganism selected from the group consisting of members of the genera *Aspergillus*, *Saccharomyces*, *Zygosaccharomyces*, *Pichia*, *Kluyveromyces*, *Candida*, *Hansenula*, *Debaryomyces*, *Mucor*, *Torulopsis*, *Methylobacter*, *Salmonella*, *Bacillus*, *Streptomyces*, and *Pseudomonas*.

Add new Claim 34 as follows.

--34. 1,3-propanediol produced by a bioconversion process comprising contacting, under suitable conditions, a carbon substrate selected from (a) a first group consisting of